

**TOWN OF GRANBY  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
April 18, 2013**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Neil Hornish; Susan Dwyer; Carolyn Flint; Mark Fiorentino; Anna Sogliuzzo; Lana Torres; Mark Lockwood

Members of the public were also present.

Chairman Neil Hornish confirmed a quorum and called the special meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PECK ORCHARD:**

The members of the Commission walked the Peck Orchard property at 329 Granville Road at 6:00 p.m. this evening. The Commission returned to their regular meeting location to further discuss their findings. There was much discussion about the property and comments from a resident.

ON A MOTION by M. Fiorentino, seconded by L. Torres, the Commission voted unanimously (7-0-0) to submit a letter to the Planning and Zoning Commission with various concerns and recommendations regarding the proposed plans for the Peck Orchard property. The letter will be presented at the next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on April 23, 2013.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Attached is the letter that was submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jini Ruscitti  
Recording Secretary

Attachment

April 19, 2013

Chairwoman Paula Johnson and Members of the  
Granby Planning and Zoning Commission

**Re: Z-5-13: Peck Orchard**

Dear Chairwoman Johnson and Commissioners:

The Conservation Commission recently completed an analysis of the above-referenced application. We reviewed plans, inspected the subject property and surrounding area and discussed the project's potential impact on Granby's natural resources.

We believe the project may have a number of detrimental impacts. These include:

- 1) Destruction of habitat for both flora and fauna, especially those species listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern. Property owners in the area have reported sighting a number of such species, including bald eagles, red-headed woodpeckers, whip-poor-wills and turtles.
- 2) Destruction or fragmentation of an existing wildlife corridor. The subject property is in a corridor used by a number of animal species, including black bears, moose and bobcats. Destruction or fragmentation of a wildlife corridor may force the animals into more congested areas, resulting in human/wildlife conflicts.
- 3) Contamination and/or degradation of the Salmon Brook and Fox Brook watersheds. Both brooks are a critical part of the ecosystem and water supply for Granby and the surrounding area. We are concerned that the proposed excavation, reclamation and maintenance plans are insufficient to protect the watersheds from water, silt and other runoff.
- 4) Introduction of invasive species. It appears that the reclamation plan includes installation of grass and other plants, some of which are considered invasive. These should be replaced by native species.

We respectfully recommend that you consider the following:

- 1) Before acting on the application, require an Environmental Impact Study for the property and the surrounding area. The study should address each of the

concerns listed above and any other issues you deem relevant.

2) If you are inclined to approve the application, impose the following conditions:

- Increase the requirement for silt fencing and other measures to protect the watersheds from runoff.
- Require a maintenance plan that ensures the applicant will maintain all drainage, runoff, erosion and reclamation measures until the property is developed with permanent residence(s). Designate a town staff member to be responsible for regularly inspecting the property to ensure the applicant is in compliance maintenance plan.
- Require performance bonds or other security sufficient to ensure the applicant's compliance with all conditions, including the maintenance plan.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions or need anything further.

Sincerely,

Anna Sogliuzzo  
Chairwoman  
Granby Conservation Commission